IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is set forth below. Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   **(Currently Amended)** A system ~~comprising one or more computers associated with a buyer~~ for locally generating price quotes, the ~~one or more computers associated with the buyer collectively operable to:~~ <u>system comprising:</u>

a server associated with a buyer, wherein the server is operable to:

receive ~~a~~ <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> from ~~a seller,~~ <u>one or more sellers,</u> the <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> operable to generate price quotes for ~~the seller;~~ <u>one or more corresponding sellers;</u>

locally store the <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> received from the <u>one or more sellers</u> ~~seller~~ <u>in a buyer database,</u> such that the <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool is~~ <u>tools are</u> locally accessible to the ~~one or more computers~~ <u>server</u> associated with the buyer;

access a request for quote (RFQ) specifying an order comprising quantities of one or more items, the RFQ requesting a price quote for the order;

communicate the RFQ to the locally accessible <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool;~~ <u>tools;</u>

using the locally accessible <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> received from the <u>one or more sellers,</u> ~~seller,~~ locally generate a price quote for the order; and

provide the locally generated price quote for the order for possible further action by the buyer.

2.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool is~~ <u>tools are</u> encrypted to prevent the <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> from being used to determine how price quotes are calculated.

3.   **(Canceled)**

4.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the buyer comprises a buying group comprising two or more buyers buying items as a single buying entity.

5.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the ~~one or more computers are~~ server is further collectively operable to:

receive a pricing tool update from a seller, the pricing tool update reflecting one or more price changes for the seller; and

update the locally accessible <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> according to the received pricing tool update.

6.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the ~~one or more computers are~~ server is further collectively operable to:

make one or more modifications to the order specified in the RFQ, the modifications being made based on the price quote for the order generated using the locally accessible <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> received from the <u>one or more sellers;</u> ~~seller;~~

using the locally accessible <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> received from the <u>one or more sellers,</u> ~~seller,~~ locally generate a price quote for the modified order, and provide the locally generated price quote for the modified order for possible further action by the buyer.

7.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 6, wherein the one or more modifications to the order are made automatically by the ~~one or more computers~~ <u>server</u> associated with the buyer based on the locally generated price quote for the order.

8.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 7, wherein the ~~one or more computers are collectively~~ server is operable to iteratively modify the order and locally generate corresponding price quotes to optimize sourcing for the buyer.

9.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the ~~one or more computers are collectively~~ server is operable to locally generate the price quote independent of communication with the one or more sellers ~~seller~~ subsequent to receiving the one or more pricing ~~tool~~ tools from the one or more sellers. ~~seller.~~

10.   **(Currently Amended)** A method for locally generating price quotes, comprising:

receiving ~~a~~ one or more pricing ~~tool~~ tools from ~~a seller,~~ one or more sellers, the one or more pricing ~~tool~~ tools operable to generate price quotes for ~~the seller;~~ one or more corresponding sellers;

locally storing the one or more pricing ~~tool~~ tools received from the one or more sellers ~~seller~~ in a buyer database, such that the one or more pricing ~~tool is~~ tools are locally accessible to ~~one or more computers~~ the server associated with the buyer;

accessing a request for quote (RFQ) specifying an order comprising quantities of one or more items, the RFQ requesting a price quote for the order;

communicating the RFQ to the locally accessible one or more pricing ~~tool;~~ tools;

using the locally accessible one or more pricing ~~tool~~ tools received from the one or more sellers, ~~seller,~~ locally generating a price quote for the order; and

providing the locally generated price quote for the order for possible further action by the buyer.

11.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 10, wherein the one or more pricing ~~tool is~~ tools are encrypted to prevent the one or more pricing ~~tool~~ tools from being used to determine how price quotes are calculated.

12.   **(Canceled)**

13.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 10, wherein the buyer comprises a buying group comprising two or more buyers buying items as a single buying entity.

14.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

receiving a pricing tool update from a seller, the pricing tool update reflecting one or more price changes for the seller; and

updating the locally accessible one or more pricing ~~tool~~ tools according to the received pricing tool update.

15.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

making one or more modifications to the order specified in the RFQ, the modifications being made based on the price quote for the order generated using the locally accessible one or more pricing ~~tool~~ tools received from the one or more sellers; ~~seller;~~

using the locally accessible one or more pricing ~~tool~~ tools received from the one or more sellers, ~~seller,~~ locally generating a price quote for the modified order, and providing the locally generated price quote for the modified order for possible further action by the buyer.

16.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 15, wherein the one or more modifications to the order are made automatically based on the locally generated price quote for the order.

17.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 16, further comprising iteratively modifying the order and locally generating corresponding price quotes to optimize sourcing for the buyer.

18.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 10, wherein locally generating the price quote comprises generating the price quote independent of communication with the one or more sellers ~~seller~~ subsequent to receiving the one or more pricing ~~tool~~ tools from the one or more sellers. ~~seller.~~

19. **(Currently Amended)** Software associated with a buyer for locally generating price quotes, the software embodied in a computer-readable medium and when executed operable to:

receive ~~a~~ one or more pricing ~~tool~~ tools from ~~a seller,~~ one or more sellers, the one or more pricing ~~tool~~ tools operable to generate price quotes for ~~the seller;~~ one or more corresponding sellers;

locally store the one or more pricing ~~tool~~ tools received from the one or more sellers ~~seller~~ in a buyer database, such that the one or more pricing ~~tool is~~ tools are locally accessible to the software;

access a request for quote (RFQ) specifying an order comprising quantities of one or more items, the RFQ requesting a price quote for the order;

communicate the RFQ to the locally accessible one or more pricing ~~tool;~~ tools;

using the locally accessible one or more pricing ~~tool~~ tools received from the one or more sellers, ~~seller,~~ locally generate a price quote for the order; and

provide the locally generated price quote for the order for possible further action by the buyer.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The software of Claim 19, wherein the one or more pricing ~~tool is~~ tools are encrypted to prevent the one or more pricing ~~tool~~ tools from being used to determine how price quotes are calculated.

21. **(Canceled)**

22. **(Original)** The software of Claim 19, wherein the buyer comprises a buying group comprising two or more buyers buying items as a single buying entity.

23.   **(Currently Amended)** The software of Claim 19, further operable to:

receive a pricing tool update from a seller, the pricing tool update reflecting one or more price changes for the seller; and

update the locally accessible <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> according to the received pricing tool update.

24.   **(Currently Amended)** The software of Claim 19, further operable to:

make one or more modifications to the order specified in the RFQ, the modifications being made based on the price quote for the order generated using the locally accessible <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> received from the <u>one or more sellers;</u> ~~seller;~~

using the locally accessible <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> received from the <u>one or more sellers,</u> ~~seller,~~ locally generate a price quote for the modified order, and provide the locally generated price quote for the modified order for possible further action by the buyer.

25.   **(Currently Amended)** The software of Claim 24, wherein the one or more modifications to the order are made automatically by <u>a server</u> ~~the one or more computers~~ associated with the buyer based on the locally generated price quote for the order.

26.   **(Original)** The software of Claim 25, operable to iteratively modify the order and locally generate corresponding price quotes to optimize sourcing for the buyer.

27.   **(Currently Amended)** The software of Claim 19, operable to locally generate the price quote independent of communication with the <u>one or more sellers</u> ~~seller~~ subsequent to receiving the <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> from the <u>one or more sellers.</u> ~~seller.~~

28.   **(Currently Amended)** A system associated with a buyer for locally generating price quotes, comprising:

means for receiving ~~a~~ <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> from ~~a seller,~~ <u>one or more sellers,</u> the <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> operable to generate price quotes for ~~the seller;~~ <u>one or more corresponding sellers;</u>

means for locally storing the <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> received from the <u>one or more sellers</u> ~~seller~~ <u>in a buyer database,</u> such that the <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool is~~ <u>tools are</u> locally accessible to ~~the one or more computers~~ <u>a server</u> associated with the buyer;

means for accessing a request for quote (RFQ) specifying an order comprising quantities of one or more items, the RFQ requesting a price quote for the order;

means for communicating the RFQ to the locally accessible <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool;~~ <u>tools;</u>

means for locally generating a price quote for the order using the locally accessible <u>one or more</u> pricing ~~tool~~ <u>tools</u> received from the <u>one or more sellers;</u> ~~seller;~~ and

means for providing the locally generated price quote for the order for possible further action by the buyer.

29.   **(Currently Amended)** A system comprising ~~one or more computers~~ a server associated with a buying group for locally generating price quotes, the buying group comprising two or more buyers buying items as a single buying entity, the ~~one or more computers~~ server associated with the buyer collectively operable to:

receive a plurality of pricing tools from a plurality of sellers, each pricing tool operable to generate price quotes for at least one corresponding seller;

locally store the pricing tools received from the sellers such that the pricing tools are locally accessible to the ~~one or more computers~~ server associated with the buying group;

access a request for quote (RFQ) specifying an order comprising quantities of one or more items, the RFQ requesting one or more price quotes for the order;

communicate the RFQ to the locally accessible pricing tools;

using the locally accessible pricing tools received from the sellers, locally generate one or more price quotes for the order;

provide the locally generated price quotes for the order for possible further action by the buying group;

make one or more modifications to the order specified in the RFQ, the modifications being made based on the price quote for the order generated using the locally accessible pricing tools received from the sellers;

using the locally accessible pricing tools received from the sellers, locally generate one or more price quotes for the modified order, provide the locally generated price quotes for the modified order for possible further action by the buyer;

iteratively modify the order and locally generate corresponding price quotes to optimize sourcing for the buying group; and

receive a pricing tool update for a particular locally accessible pricing tool, the pricing tool update reflecting one or more price changes for at least one seller, and update the particular locally accessible pricing tool according to the received pricing tool update.